

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-06 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00

IGA-02 /067 W

-----011727Z 107244 /50

R 311441Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2316

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 4600

PASS: OES/PA, DHEW/OIH-NIH, AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, TBIO, SPOP, IN

SUBJECT: FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM TO BE DE-EMPHASIZED BY THE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1. THE NEW MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING MR. RAJ NARAIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER TAKING CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY REMARKED THAT "THE MUCH MALIGNED AND MISUSED WORD FAMILY PLANNING SHOULD BE DROPPED AND AFTER A REORGANIZATION THE MINISTRY WOULD BE KNOWN SIMPLY AS THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH." HE SAID THAT IT WAS THE CLEAR POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM THERE SHOULD BE NO COERCION OR PRESSURE. THE MINISTER INDICATED IN HIS FIRST MEETING WITH HIS SENIOR STAFF THAT EVERYONE NEEDED FAMILY PLANNING AND REALIZED ITS IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE FOR PERSONAL HAPPINESS AND NATIONAL PROSPERITY AND IT HAS BEEN PRACTICED IN A NATURAL MANNER SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL. HE REMARKED THAT FAMILY PLANNING WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF BASIC INDIAN CULTURE. HOWEVER, THE MINISTER STATED, " STERILIZATION IS AN INHUMAN METHOD NOT IN TUNE WITH OUR CULTURE AND CUSTOM, AND COMPULSORY STERILIZATION DID NOT FIT INTO OUR PATTERN OF FUNCTIONING AT ALL SO IT SHOULD BE GIVEN UP ONCE AND FOR ALL." THE MINISTER EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO INTENSIFY MOTIVATIONAL CAMPAIGNS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE "SMALL FAMILY NORM" BY ELIGIBLE

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COUPLES AND SUGGESTED THAT NEW POSTERS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SHOULD BE PREPARED ON THE BASIS OF ANCIENT INDIAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION.

2. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE NEW HEALTH MINISTRY SHOULD TAKE CARE OF ALL ASPECTS OF FAMILY PLANNING, PREVENTION AND CURATIVE ASPECTS OF MEDICARE, NUTRITION, PREVENTION OF FOOD ADULT-

ERATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND AND LEPERS.  
THIS WOULD BE AN INTEGRATED PACKAGE OF HEALTH CARE TO BE MADE  
AVAILABLE TO EVERY CITIZEN OF THE COUNTRY.

3. THE MINISTER HAS APPEALED TO THE STATE CHIEF MINISTERS TO  
LOOK INTO THE COMPLICATIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED AS  
A RESULT OF STERLIZATION OPERATIONS, AND ANY PERSONS SUFFERING  
FROM AFFECTS OF STERLIZATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TREATMENT AT STATE  
EXPENSE.

4. IN A SEPARATE ACTION IN THE INTERIM NATIONAL BUDGET PRESENTED  
TO THE PARLIAMENT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS PROPOSED TO CUT THE  
FAMILY PLANNING BUDGET FOR FY 1977-78 BEGINNING APRIL 1 BY  
RS 278 MILLION. THE ORIGINAL FAMILY PLANNING BUDGET FOR FY 1976-  
77 OF RS 701 MILLION WAS MORE THAN DOUBLED TO RS 1,500  
MILLION PRIMARILY TO COVER THE STEEP INCREASE IN STERLIZATIONS  
AND COMPENSATION (INCENTIVE) PAYMENTS. THE CUT IN THE  
NEW BUDGET WILL REDUCE THE TOTAL PROPOSAL TO RS 1,214 MILLION STILL  
RS 512 MILLION ABOVE THE ORIGINAL BUDGET PROVISION FOR FY  
1976-77 AND WHICH INCLUDES ABOUT RS 400 MILLION FOR STERLI-  
ZATION COMPENSATION, REFLECTING AN EXPECTED REDUCTION IN NUMBER  
OF STERLIZATIONS TO BE PERFORMED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

5. THE BUDGET PRESENTED BY PARLIAMENT WAS PREPARED BY THE  
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL NO DOUBT CARE-  
FULLY REVIEW THE FY 1977-78 BUDGET PROPOSAL IN MAY AND MAKE  
CHANGES REFLECTING NEW FAMILY PLANNING POLICIES.SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM TO BE DE-EMPHASIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
**TAGS:** TPHY, TBIO, SPOP, IN, (NARAIN, RAJ)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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